

THE

MONTHLY



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NUMBER 1

JANUARY MEETING: The next regular monthly meeting of the Association will be held at 8 o'clock, on Thursday, the 8th of January, 1920, in the lecture hall of the California Development Board, Ferry Building.

Annual reports of officers will be presented.

The annual election of officers of the Association for the ensuing term will take place. For the sake of the future welfare of the Association and its growing influence in propagating Bird Study and Protection, members should consider it a duty to interest themselves in the coming election and additionally thereby give encouragement to your incoming officers to make more valuable our membership in the Association.

The lecture of the evening will be delivered by Mr. J. S. Hunter, Assistant Executive Officer of the State Fish and Game Commission, on "The Equity of the Game Laws." Sportsmen and the general public cordially invited.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE ANNUAL DUES ARE PAYABLE IN JANUARY. If you do not intend paying at the annual meeting, will you not kindly send check to the Treasurer during the month?

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JANUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Lake Merritt, Oakland, on Sunday, January 11, 1920.

San Francisco members will take Key Route boat at 9 A. M., and Grand Avenue car on 22nd Street train at mole, leaving car at corner of Euclid and Grand Avenues.

East Bay members transfer from any main line to Grand Avenue or Lake Shore Avenue cars which pass the point mentioned.

The party will form at the Embarcadero Colonnade at the east end of Lake Merritt promptly at 9:45 A. M. in order to view the feeding of the wild ducks, which takes place at 10 A. M.

Those desiring to spend the afternoon in Trestle Glen, about a half mile from Lake Merritt, will bring lunch and drinking water.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING: The thirty-fifth regular meeting of the Association was held on the 11th of December, 1919, in the Ferry Building and presided over by President Lastreto.

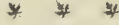
The proposed constitutional amendment providing for the election of the officers of the Association by the direct vote of the members at the annual meeting (instead of by the Directors, as before) was favorably reported by the Board of Directors, and was finally passed by the unanimous vote of those present, and declared adopted.

Dr. Joseph Grinnell, of the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, gave the talk of the evening, his subject being "The Forage Habits of Birds." This consisted in a serious consideration of some of the factors which control the existence and persistence of bird life in any locality. The process of foraging was analyzed into three stages: (1) procedure to the actual restricted forage ground, which might be a long ways from the roosting or nesting place of the species (as with gulls, swifts, and vultures); (2) setting out to search for specific food items on the forage "beat" selected; (3) process of securing each food item after once found.

A grouping of food items was suggested as follows: (1) Those which are fixed and which are gone after by the birds which are themselves in rapid

movement in carrying on the search (as with creepers, warblers, meadowlarks, etc.); (2) Those which are on the move and for the most part are stalked by birds which themselves remain stationary until the moment of capture (as with flycatchers, kingfishers, shrikes, etc.). The principle of "rapid peering," as on the part of kinglets, was gone into in some detail. Various familiar species of birds were described as concerning their methods of food finding, so that Dr. Grinnell's hearers were able to follow the arguments set forth from their own experience.

At the conclusion of his talk a number of members themselves joined in the general discussion based upon their own direct experience.



NOTES ON THE AVIFAUNA OF THE INNER COAST RANGE OF CALIFORNIA—By J. Mailliard.

Just published by the California Academy of Sciences, an interesting report of a field trip last spring into Napa, Lake and Mendocino Counties, and a valuable contribution to avifaunal data. But the feelings of the protectionist bird lover are aroused on reading of "collections" of egg-bearing females; "the parent of the nest and the two young" Calliope Humming Birds (*Stellula Calliope*); "The parent was finally secured and found to be *Amphispiza belli* [Bell's Sparrow]. Except for its mate, not another of its species was heard or noted within many miles . . .,"—greater value being attached to previously unrecorded species. How much cruelty is provoked or condoned by science!

While we may probably guess what choice the collector would be tempted to make, nay even take, if he found within his reach the only pair, albeit with nest and young, of a rare or extirpating species with possibility of multiplying, there can be no question as to the economic and sentimental preference, and unfortunately there is a difference between the values to the scientist and to science itself of the dead specimen of an exterminated species and the surviving propagating life.



HUNTING WITHIN THE CITY.

Soon after the Boy Scouts had pitched their tents in their new week-end camp, "Camp Lilienthal," on the shore of Mud Lake, a little west of the old Troadero, a Mallard duck, previous resident of the locality, far from resenting the intrusion, welcomed his new neighbors and made daily visits on the porch of the club house and gratefully partook of the camp fare shared with him. Friendship and affection grew warm between the boys and the duck, whom the former looked upon as their Avian fellow Scout. But others looked upon the duck with different eyes, and one day he fell victim to some "sportsman's" gun. It is more difficult to describe than to imagine the boys' grief for the loss of their pet and their indignation at the lawless hunter's selfish act.

A short time later a Great Blue Heron began to make increasingly frequent visits to the shores of the lake and gradually gave signs of interest and willing friendship. It was decided to recruit the newcomer. But the insisting and trespassing hunter would not have it so. Early Sunday morning, 14th December a shot was heard and the beautiful bird was seen to drop into the lake. The scouts hurried out in a boat and found their new friend dead.

Fearing to attempt to arrest the armed culprit, they telephoned to the police and followed him to his automobile and though he drove away and disappeared they tracked him to his home in the vegetable gardens in the Spring Valley property by Lake Merced.

Meanwhile Mr. Hansen, who had seen the man in question reported the occurrence to Mr. Lastreto on his arrival at the rendezvous of the Association's field trip, and both started to apprehend the hunter. On their way they saw a man with a gun who tried to escape through the thick hedge that borders the Water Company's property on Sloat Boulevard, and though he was not the one they were seeking, arrested him on his confession that he was "only hunting small birds."

The scouts had led the police to the murderer of their Heron, and both men were taken to the station. The next day in court, before a formidable array of witnesses, both men pleaded guilty, but as they protested penitence they were, by common consent, let off with light fines.

THE GULL

"DO NOT FORGET THE BIRDS"—Germany.

It was not generally considered the right thing to "waste" grains and bread crumbs on feeding wild birds during our late food conservation period in the war. Now, during the well known acute food and economic situation in Germany, and precisely for that reason, that the food-producer's ally, the birds, be not permitted to suffer its effects, the public press is conducting a propaganda to induce the inhabitants to share their rations with the birds, and print large prominent notices: "Do not forget the Birds."

* * *

A TRIP TO LAKE MERCED.

On Sunday afternoon, May 4, 1919, a group of Boy Scouts met at the Week-end Camp to take a bird trip around the shores of Lake Merced. Accordingly the party started about two-thirty from the camp, where the nest of an Anna hummer was found about twenty feet from the ground on a branch of a Monterey Cypress. The song of the purple finch was occasionally heard, and a great many linnets were flying among the trees. Hiking through the brush-covered sand lots, many Nuttall sparrows were seen, as well as several San Francisco towhees.

When approaching the entrance of the Merced Ranch, a small hawk, most likely the sparrow hawk, was hovering near some trees in the distance. Several bush-tits were feeding in the brush along the path. A large barn owl suddenly flew from a group of trees a little to our right, and alighted a few yards from us. This led us to suspect the presence of a nest in the near vicinity. After a few minutes' search the decayed trunk of a cypress was found, with quite a respectable sized hole in it, some thirty-odd feet from the ground. Scout Otto Pierce then began to climb the tree, and after using a great deal of caution in testing the branches, reached the cavity. Here a new difficulty presented itself, that of getting sufficient light to enable him to see what the cavity contained. He finally made out several white objects moving around, which we concluded were the young owls. Before descending a chickadee began to flutter around the trunk, and darted into a crevice further down. Investigation disclosed a nest of five eggs.

While the above discoveries were being made the party at the foot of the tree noted that a pair of juncos (subspecies undetermined) were making regular trips to a eucalyptus tree a short distance away. This could mean but one thing, a nest. Sure enough, about eight feet from the ground in a crotch formed by the limbs branching out from the trunk, as is the case in most gum trees, a nest containing four young birds almost ready to fly was found in the debris. We took one of the small birds out of the nest to note the effect this would have on the adults.

Several yellow and pileolated warblers were seen around the lake, as well as some coots, mallards, Ruddy ducks, and two common loons. Among the tules that fringe the shores many tule wrens were singing, and several of their nests were seen. These nests were somewhat cone-shaped, and occurred in groups of three and four; from this it was decided that these wrens followed the habit of the marsh wren in building several counterfeit nests. We also noted that only one or two of the birds were seen around each group.

HAROLD E. HANSEN.

* * *

BIRDS' NESTS IN THE MUSIC CONCOURSE. GOLDEN GATE PARK.

One of the attractions of Golden Gate Park is the abundant and varied bird life found within its borders. Any one at all observing who visits the Park can not fail to notice several species of birds. In the small lakes he will be interested and amused watching the ducks and coots. During the fall months he will be astonished at the large number of kildees and Brewer's blackbirds he may see in the open places. And when he visits the Museum of the Academy of Sciences he will be surprised at as well as delighted by the several flocks of quail and the great numbers of Nuttall sparrows he may see about the Museum and the Music Concourse. The Nuttall sparrows are among the most confiding little birds of the Park. They are there all the time and may be heard singing cheerily almost any day in the year.

THE GULL

It occurred to me that it would be interesting to know how many birds nest in that locality, so on December 4, 1919, after the trees had shed most of their leaves, I took a census of the nests in the trees in the Music Concourse. I was assisted by Mr. Luther Little, assistant curator of ornithology in the Academy Museum. We examined all the trees in the Concourse, including those on the terrace immediately about it, with the following results:

Total number of trees, 289; number of nests in elm trees, 47; number of nests in maple trees, 7; number of nests in sycamore trees, 3; total number of nests observed, 57.

Usually there were not more than one nest in any one tree, but in several instances there were two, and in one case, three.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to tell the species of bird to which each nest belonged. Apparently the great majority are nests of the Nuttall sparrow; a few were evidently the English sparrow; two or three may have been goldfinch; and one was evidently a robin's nest.

BARTON WARREN EVERMANN,
California Academy of Sciences.

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THE DECEMBER FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, December 14th, to Lake Merced. The southerly shores of both arms of the lake were traversed, with a resulting list, the largest of any yet secured by the Association. A beautiful and otherwise delightful and profitable day was marred by the promiscuous shooting which took place throughout the trip. One-half hour after the party had enjoyed watching a whistling swan, the bird was shot by some miscreant who was unable to retrieve it and, when the still warm body drifted ashore, we were able to secure it for the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University. A short billed gull, freshly shot, was also picked up and all along the shores we found various ducks and grebes which had been illegally slaughtered. It is outrageous that a refuge so ideal should be violated in such barefaced fashion. The party met several men and youths openly carrying and discharging guns, and no one can say how many kept out of sight.

Members making the trip were: The Misses Ames, Ayer, Cassiday, Flynn, Griffin and Gunn; Mesdames Kelly, Kibbe and Roe; Messrs. Hansen, Kibbe, Leggett and George Wright. Miss Flynn, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Leggett accompanied us as guests. Mr. Lastreto was with us for a few minutes only, as he and Mr. Hansen followed up two other cases of illegal shooting which occurred near the Boy Scouts' Camp, just as the party was forming on Sloat Boulevard. Fourteen members and three guests.

The following birds were encountered: Western, eared and pied-bill grebes; California, glaucous-winged and short-billed gulls; Farallon cormorant; lesser scaup, canvasback and ruddy ducks; whistling swans, bittern, and great blue heron; Virginia and sora rails, coots and Wilson snipe; sandpipers, kildeer and quail; sharp-shinned, Cooper, red-tail and sparrow-hawks; willow woodpecker, flickers, Anna hummers and black phoebe; bicolor blackbirds; Brewer blackbirds and meadow larks; linnets and green-backed goldfinches; intermediate, Nuttall, golden-crowned, song and fox sparrows; junco, San Francisco towhee, a swallow and shrikes; myrtle and Audubon warblers and salt marsh yellow throat; pipits, Vigors, winter and tule wrens; chickadees, bush-tits, ruby-crowned kinglets and hermit thrushes. Fifty-three species on or around the lake.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month in Lecture Room of California Development Board,
Ferry Building, San Francisco.

Everyone welcome. Active Membership, \$3.00 per year, including Bulletin.
The Gull invites free and open discussion. The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views nor the stand taken by this Association.

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